33% of the dealerships/distributorships in each of the above categories will be reserved for women in that category.

(d) During the last three years i.e., from 1998-99 to 2000-2001, 915 retail outlets were allotted by the oil marketing companies.

LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh

602. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections and kerosene outlets given by oil companies in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years, 2000 and 2001;

(b) the target set up for the year 2002; and

(c) the steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released about 16 lakh and 9 lakh LPG connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000 and 2001 respectively. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has allotted only one SKO-LDO dealership in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2001. Other OMCs have not allotted any SKO-LDO dealership during the last two years in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The allotment of SKO-LDO dealerships is a continuous process and no fixed target has been set up for such allotment for the year 2002. However, the LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

National Gas Reserves in Western Coast

†603. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are quite active in exploration of natural gas;

(b) if so, whether there are signs of natural gas reserves on the Western Coast of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.